

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**AGENCY:** ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

**TITLE:** "US-Mexico Border Environmental Education, Outreach and Support Program"

**ACTION:** Request for Proposals (RFP)

**RFP:** EPA-OAR-IO-10-13

**CFDA:** 66.037

**SUMMARY:** Formal Agency responses to questions regarding the subject RFA

**DATE:** December 8, 2010

**Q1. In the RFA, the US-Mexico border region is defined in the 1983 La Paz US-Mexico Agreement as "the region that encompasses 62.5 miles on each side of the US-Mexico border" and spans 1,950 miles from the Gulf Coast to the Pacific Ocean. If the organization applying for the grant is located outside of the US Mexico border region, can the organization still apply for the grant?**

**A1.** Yes, any eligible entity can apply for this funding opportunity. However, all proposed project activities must take place in the defined US/Mexico Border area along the US side, as stated in the RFA.

**Q2. Can only one of the tasks be applied for per submission and does this place that group at any disadvantage in the competitive selection process?**

**A2.** As stated in the scope of work in section I part B. of the RFA, "*Applicants must address each of the following tasks associated with providing environmental education, outreach, and support services envisioned under this project. An eligible applicant may collaborate with another eligible applicant to submit a single proposal that divides the two tasks between them,*" and again in section III. Part C. 4., "*Applicant must address all the tasks listed in Section I. Scope of Work.*"

**Q3. In regards to Performance Measurement, is there a requirement to hire an outside evaluator, or can all evaluation be implemented internally by the applicant?**

**A3.** Applicants are responsible for proposing how they address the requirements listed in the RFA. An applicant proposing to have a contractor evaluate their grant would be acceptable.

**Q4. On page six, last paragraph a "demonstration" project language is utilized, also saying, "Implementation activities are not eligible for funding under this**

**announcement". As Task 1 is a curriculum design and development effort (with partnerships) please clarify how development and implementation are distinguished.**

**A4.** Curriculum activities are considered a form of training, which are allowable activities. The distinction between demonstration activities and implementation projects is not relevant to the activities in Task 1 involving design and development of curriculum. These activities are allowable by the authority in the authorizing statute, Clean Air Act section 103, for EPA to award training grants. Curriculum development is incidental to providing training. Even though the curriculum would be implemented by delivering the training itself, the demonstration/implementation issue is not implicated as the training authority would govern and the costs would be eligible.

**Q5. Is there any limitation on the number of submissions that can be sent in by a single institution for EPA-OAR-IO-10-13?**

**A5.** Because each application submitted is evaluated on an individual basis, there are not limitations on submittals by a single organization.

**Q6. Is the EPA looking for proposals that are broad geographically (multiple cities along the border) or more local and focused? How many members of the community should we aim to impact with our program? ~1,000 students or more like ~10,000 students?**

**A6.** EPA is looking for quality proposals that effectively address the requirements stated in the RFA for developing a comprehensive environmental education program. Applicants need to determine the size and geographical locations that will best fit their proposed program.

**Q7. How many proposals do you expect to receive for this call? What is the likelihood that more than one will be funded?**

**A7.** Based on the intent to apply notices received, EPA expects this funding announcement to be very competitive.

**Q8. I see that there was an amendment posted in mid-October, 2010. Would you mind sharing when the initial RFA was released?**

**A8.** October 6, 2010.

**Q9. Are there any plans for similar calls on the border in the next few years? How many have been funded in the past?**

**A9.** EPA does expect to continue funding projects that contain a US/Mexico border environmental focus. The previous 2007/2008 US/Mexico Environmental Education grant competition awarded one assistance agreement for approximately \$1.25 million over 5-years.

**Q10. Are there any limitations if we decide to work with both public schools and low-income and minority charter schools or would EPA prefer we focus purely on public schools?**

**A10.** No, the RFA does not contain any limitations regarding what type of schools applicants should focus their project toward. Please review the requirements in the RFA for specific details concerning the **“US-Mexico Border Environmental Education, Outreach and Support Program.”** Applicants are responsible for developing an application that addresses the requirements listed in the RFA.

**Q11. I am not sure whether my organization is located with-in the US Mexico Border Region. How can I find out if my organization is eligible for the solicitation?**

**A11.** The US –Mexico Border Region is defined in the La Paz US-Mexico Agreement as “the region that encompasses 62.5 miles on each side of the US-Mexico border” and spans 1,950 miles from the Gulf Coast to the Pacific Ocean. If you are unsure whether your organization is part of the region, submit documentation of your organization’s facilities, campus or activities that are within 62.5 miles on either side of the US-Mexico border to [USMexborder\\_enved\\_RFA@epa.gov](mailto:USMexborder_enved_RFA@epa.gov) for a determination.

**Q12. If the prime recipient has an indirect cost rate agreement, do sub-recipients need to provide an indirect cost rate agreement as well?**

**A12.** Any entity requesting indirect costs and proposing to charge those costs to the grant would need to have a federally negotiated indirect cost rate. Only the prime grantee will need to submit an indirect cost rate to EPA. The prime grantee should collect a sub-awardee’s indirect cost rate for their files.